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CLAIMS:

(65)

1. An iridium alloy, the alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Rh and at least one of W and Zr; wherein the Rh comprises between 0.1 and 2.5 wt% of the alloy; wherein when present, W comprises between 0.01 and 5 wt% of the alloy; wherein when present in combination with W, Zr comprises between 0.01 and 0.5 wt% of the alloy; and wherein when present in combination with the Rh only, Zr comprises between 0.01 and 0.09 wt% of the alloy.
2. An alloy according to claim 1, wherein when present, W comprises between 0.01 and 0.5 wt% of the alloy; wherein when present in combination with W, Zr comprises between 0.01 and 0.5 wt% of the alloy; and wherein when present in combination with the Rh only, Zr comprises between 0.02 and 0.07 wt% of the alloy.
3. An iridium alloy, the alloy consisting essentially of an alloy according to claim 1 or 2, modified by the addition of Pt in an amount of between 0.1 and 5 wt% of the alloy.
4. An iridium alloy, the alloy consisting essentially of an alloy according to claim 1, 2 or 3, modified by the addition of one or more of Ta, Nb, Mo, Cr, Ce, Sc, Lu, Co, Ni, Hf, Y, Ti, Ru and Pd individually in an amount of between 0.01 and 10 wt% of the alloy.
5. An alloy according to claim 4, wherein when present, Ta, Nb, Mo, Cr, Ce, Sc, Lu, Co, Ni, Hf, Y and Ti individually comprise between 0.01 and 0.5 wt% of the alloy; and wherein when present, Ru and Pd individually comprise between 0.1 and 5 wt% of the alloy.
6. An alloy according to claim 1 or 2, the alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Rh, W, and Zr.
7. An alloy according to claim 3, the alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Pt, Rh, W and Zr.
8. An alloy according to claim 1 or 2, the alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Rh and W.
9. An alloy according to claim 1 or 2, the alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Rh and Zr.

10. An alloy according to claim 3, the alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Pt, Rh and W.
11. An electrode comprising an alloy according to any preceding claim.
12. A spark plug comprising an electrode according to claim 11.